

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Contents of the abstract and the specification:

The abstract and the specification have been amended following the guidelines suggested in the office communication. The applicant has also amended the specification for clarification and for editorial purpose. No new matter is added through the amendments to the specifications.

2. Rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph:

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Response:

The applicant has canceled claims 1-6 and added new claims 7-13. The claims 7-13 are supported in the specification and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention. Claim 7 is an independent claim. Claims 8-13 are dependent on claim 7. It is submitted that the rejection is inapplicable to claim 7 and its dependent claims. No new matter is added through any of the new claims 7-13.

3. Rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fay (US5,140,883) in view of Bennett..

Response:

The patent number of this prior art by Bennett was not provided on the "Notice of Reference Cited" form; therefore the applicant assumes that the patent being cited here is US Patent No. 6,288,315.

Claims 1-6 have been cancelled, and are no longer in need of consideration. Consideration of new claims 7-13 is hereby requested. Claim 7 recites an in-line chromatic harp comprising a body, formed of a pillar, a neck and a sound box; a plurality of strings with one end fastened to the neck and another end fastened to the sound box; a string position guide, movably installed behind the strings, with one end fastened to the pillar and another end fastened to the neck; and a plurality of color dots, disposed on each side of the string position guide and positioned according to chromatic scales, for indicating positions of the strings for notes of different chromatic scales, where the color dots are shifted to the left or to the right from one side to another, wherein the string position guide rotates around the axle thereof, such that different sides of the string position guide are placed behind the strings

to indicate the strings for the notes of different scales.

On page 7 of the above-indicated office action, the Examiner has stated, "Bennett discloses the use of a visual guide for players to identify string location using colored dots (see figure 2) and a sliding guide that can be pivoted (see figures 16a & 16b). The guide as disclosed by Bennett also discloses a specific mark on middle C (see figure 2)."

However, the applicant respectfully disagrees, and submits that Bennett discloses in figure 2 **a notation system indicating the pitches of notes** by using upper and lower letters in conjunction with apostrophes to show which pitch is meant. (Column 3, Lines 1-8) Bennett discloses in figures 16a & 16b a template 700 used to **identify the major chords**. (Column 18, Lines 46-48) And in the "SUMMARY OF INVENTION" section of this prior art, Bennett elaborates that the template is used to facilitate players to learn the various combinations of notes and major chords.

It is noted that Bennett does not disclose **a string position guide movably installed** on a in-line chromatic harp with **a plurality of color dots disposed on each side of the string position guide** and positioned according to chromatic scales, for

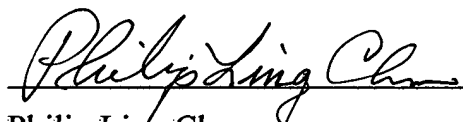
indicating positions of the strings for notes of different chromatic scales, where the color dots are shifted to the left or to the right from one side to another, wherein the string position guide rotates around the axle thereof; and Bennett does not disclose other various features recited in the independent claim 7.

Bennett does not teach that the notation system in figure 2 and the template 700 can be installed on a musical instrument to facilitate users to identify the positions of keys or strings for different notes.

The applicant respectfully requests consideration of claims 7-13. Claims 8-13 are dependent on claim 7, and should be allowed if claim 7 is allowed.

In light of the above arguments in favor of patentability, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


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